

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2377

To direct the Secretary of Education to establish and administer an awards program recognizing excellence exhibited by public school system employees providing services to students in pre-kindergarten through higher education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 12, 2009

Ms. TITUS (for herself and Ms. WOOLSEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to establish and administer an awards program recognizing excellence exhibited by public school system employees providing services to students in pre-kindergarten through higher education.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds as follows:

5 (1) The term “classified school employee” re-
6 fers to employees working in pre-kindergarten
7 through higher education, in the following nine job
8 families:

- 1 (A) Paraprofessionals.
- 2 (B) Clerical services.
- 3 (C) Custodial and maintenance services.
- 4 (D) Transportation services.
- 5 (E) Food services.
- 6 (F) Skilled trades.
- 7 (G) Health and student services.
- 8 (H) Security services.
- 9 (I) Technical services.

10 (2) Classified school employees provide valuable
11 service to public schools in the United States.

12 (3) Classified school employees provide essential
13 services, such as transportation, facilities mainte-
14 nance and operations, food service, safety, and
15 health care.

16 (4) Classified school employees play a vital role
17 in providing for the welfare and safety of students.

18 (5) Classified school employees strive for excel-
19 lence in all areas of service to the education commu-
20 nity.

21 (6) Exemplary classified school employees
22 should be recognized for their outstanding contribu-
23 tions to quality education in the United States.

1 **SEC. 2. RECOGNITION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education shall
3 establish and administer a national recognition program
4 to be known as the “National Classified School Employees
5 of the Year Awards”. The purpose of the program shall
6 be to recognize and promote the commitment and excel-
7 lence exhibited by employees within certain occupational
8 specialties in public schools who provide exemplary service
9 to students in pre-kindergarten through higher education.

10 (b) OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTIES.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The occupational specialties
12 referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

- 13 (A) Paraprofessionals.
- 14 (B) Clerical and administrative services.
- 15 (C) Transportation services.
- 16 (D) Food and nutrition services.
- 17 (E) Custodial and maintenance services.
- 18 (F) Security services.
- 19 (G) Health and student services.
- 20 (H) Technical services.
- 21 (I) Skilled trades.

22 (2) NUMBER OF AWARDS.—Prior to March 31
23 of each year (beginning with the second calendar
24 year that begins after the date of the enactment of
25 this Act), the Secretary shall select an employee
26 from each occupational specialty described in para-

1 graph (1) to receive an award under the recognition
2 program.

3 (c) SELECTION PROCESS.—

4 (1) NOMINATION PROCESS.—Not later than No-
5 vember 1 of each year (beginning with the first cal-
6 endar year that begins after the date of the enact-
7 ment of this Act), the Secretary shall solicit nomina-
8 tions from each occupational specialty described in
9 subsection (b)(1) from the chief State school officer
10 of each State. The chief State school officer of each
11 State shall consider nominations submitted by the
12 following:

13 (A) Local educational agencies.

14 (B) School administrators.

15 (C) Professional associations.

16 (D) Labor unions.

17 (E) Any other group determined appro-
18 priate by the Secretary.

19 (2) DEMONSTRATION.—Each nomination shall
20 be submitted to the Secretary by a chief State school
21 officer in such manner as the Secretary may require
22 and shall contain, at a minimum, demonstrations of
23 excellence in the following areas:

24 (A) Work performance.

25 (B) School and community involvement.

1 (C) Leadership and commitment.

2 (D) Local support.

3 (E) Enhancement of classified school em-
4 ployees' image in the community and schools.

5 (F) Any other area of superior perform-
6 ance, such as health and safety promotion or ef-
7 ficient use of energy or other resources.

8 (3) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall develop
9 uniform national guidelines for evaluating nomina-
10 tions submitted under paragraph (2) in order to se-
11 lect the most deserving nominees based on the dem-
12 onstrations made in the areas described in such
13 paragraph.

14 (d) DEFINITIONS.—The terms used in this Act shall
15 have the meaning given such terms in section 9101 of the
16 Elementary and Secondary Education Act 1965 (20
17 U.S.C. 7801).

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